WASHINGTON (December 16) – The House this afternoon passed an FY12 Disaster Assistance bill to ensure funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's response to natural disasters.

The bill includes \$6.4 billion for FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund. It will help cover costs from the tornadoes in Alabama and other natural disasters and support operations including disaster response, surge operations, readiness, emergency declarations, and fire assistance.

The funding is fully offset by spending cuts.

Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) supported the bill and issued the following statement.

"This disaster relief funding will promote Alabama's continued recovery from our devastating tornadoes and assist communities throughout our nation stricken by natural disasters. My office has worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to ensure that it is able to respond to the needs of our citizens during desperate times. The bill supports important emergency response priorities and is fully paid-for."